(a) whether a World Bank neutral expert accompanied by Indian and Pakistani officials recently visited the Baglihar hydroelectric project site for inspection; and

(b) if so, how far the dispute have come nearer to resolution of the issues thereby, indicating the precise dispute and how it is sought to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir. Prof. Raymond Lafitte, the Neutral Expert appointed to examine the matters relating to Baglihar Project had visited the Project accompanied by Indian and Pakistani officials on October 2-3, 2005.

(b) The Government of Pakistan are of the view that certain features of the Dam such as the location of power intake, the location of the gated spillways, the size of the pondage, the calculated maximum probable flow are not in conformity with design parameters as laid down in the Indus Water Treaty, 1960. The Government of Pakistan filed its Memorial on the case and the Government of India has filed its Counter Memorial before the Neutral Expert. The respective parties had been given an opportunity to make a site inspection. The Expert required India to furnish additional technical reports, which have been filed. Thereafter the Government of Pakistan had filed its Reply on the points raised and India is to file its Rejoinder as per the time schedule prescribed by the Neutral Expert. Thereafter, the two parties will be given an opportunity to make oral presentations in the matter. Thereafter, the Neutral Expert will come to his determination on matters referred to him. This determination by the Neutral Expert will be made on the basis of his technical assessment of the Dam's design proposed by India in relation to the provisions of the Treaty.

**Depletion of ground water level in Uttaranchal**

300. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some areas of Uttaranchal have been facing acute dry spells this year and preceding three years with a result that ground water level have depleted a lot;

(b) whether Central Government has given necessary financial aid to the State Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) As per information received from the Indian Meteorological Department, there have been short periods of dry spells in Uttaranchal during South-west monsoon during the year 2005 and the years 2002 and 2004. Sub-normal rainfall is one of the reasons which have led to depletion of ground water levels in some parts of the State. As per the recent ground water resources assessment carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the State Government, Bhagwanpur and Laksar blocks of Haridwar district have shown significant decline in water levels during the past decade.

(b) and (c) Presently, there is no scheme for giving financial aid to the State Governments to check depletion of ground water level. However, as per information provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, for the drought of 2003-04, the High Level Committee had approved an assistance of Rs. 3.24 crores to the State of Uttaranchal, subject to adjustment of available balances in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of the State.

**Assessment of water requirements in various States**

301. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of water requirements in various States;

(b) if so, the estimated water requirement in agriculture, industry and domestic sectors separately; and

(c) the details of the plan to create additional storage capacity of water?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan in its report has projected the estimates of total annual water requirements for various scenarios. The estimated water requirements for the year 2010 for high population projections is 710 billion cubic metre (BCM). The State-wise break-up is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). The annual water requirements for various sectors has been estimated by the National Commission as under: